



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2524

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STEPHEN R. PRITCHARD
SECRETARY

Tel. (617) 626-1000
Fax. (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

May 26, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME: Bridgewater Water Main Improvements
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY: Bridgewater
PROJECT WATERSHED: Taunton
EOEA NUMBER: 13778
PROJECT PROPONENT: Bridgewater Water Department
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR: April 26, 2006

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I hereby determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project involves improvements to the Town of Bridgewater's water distribution system. The proposed project consists of abandoning existing 6" and 8" cast iron or asbestos cement water mains along portions of Elm and Pleasant Street and installing new 12" and 16" ductile iron water main. Approximately 4,092 linear feet of new 12" ductile iron water main will be installed within portions of Elm Street beginning at the intersection of Elm Street and Pleasant Street. Approximately 10,238 linear feet of 16" ductile iron water main will be installed within portions of Pleasant Street beginning at the intersection of Scotland Boulevard and Pleasant Street and ending at the intersection of Pleasant Street and South Street.

The project is subject to review pursuant to Section 11.03(11)(b) of the MEPA regulations because portions of the project site are located within the Hockomock Swamp Area

of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The project requires an Order of Conditions from the Bridgewater Conservation Commission, and therefore a Superceding Order of Conditions from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) if the local Order is appealed. The project also requires a Road Opening Permit from the Town of Bridgewater. DEP has commented that the project may also require an application for a WS32 Permit from the Bureau of Resource Protection, for Distribution Modifications for Systems that serve more than 3,300 people.

Because the proponent is not seeking financial assistance from the Commonwealth for the project, MEPA jurisdiction is limited to the subject matter of required or potentially required state permits. In this case, MEPA jurisdiction extends to wetlands and to issues related to the ACEC.

Portions of the proposed work are within the 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) and within previously disturbed Riverfront Area associated with tributaries of the Town River. The installation of the water main and associated water service and hydrant connections will occur mainly within the road right-of-way and will only temporarily impact 14,475 square feet (sf) of the 100-foot buffer zone and 2,000 sf of previously disturbed Riverfront Area.

The proponent has consulted with the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. According to responses from both agencies, there are no state or federally listed endangered or threatened species within the project area. Similarly, the proponent contacted the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) regarding the presence of historical or archaeological resources in the project area. MHC determined that the project would be unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) ACEC program has provided comments on the project. Most of the proposed water main replacement on Elm Street is entirely within the boundary of the Hockomock Swamp ACEC. DCR notes particular concern with two culverts under Elm Street that provide a hydrologic connection between important wetlands in the ACEC and the larger ecosystem. The proponent has consulted with ACEC staff about construction techniques that will be used to direct the water main under the two culverts.

The proponent should note comments from DEP regarding compliance with the Massachusetts Asbestos Regulations at 310 CMR 7.15. The project includes the abandoning of existing asbestos cement water mains; however the ENF did not include any detail about work practices that will be implemented to ensure no asbestos fiber release to the ambient air during the project. The proponent should contact the DEP Southeast Regional Office's Asbestos Program to discuss proper work practices prior to starting the project. The proponent should also note comments from DEP regarding contaminated sites located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and after consultation with relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project do not warrant the

preparation of an EIR and can be properly addressed during the permitting process. No further MEPA review is required.

May 26, 2006

Date



Stephen R. Pritchard

Comments received:

5/15/2006 Department of Conservation and Recreation, Area of Critical Environmental Concern Program

5/16/2006 Department of Environmental Protection, Southeast Regional Office

SRP/BA/ba